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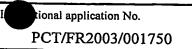
Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREA

Rec'd PCT/PTO U3 JAM ZUU3 INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

	(FC1 Article 36 and	Rule 70)					
Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	OR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of Internation Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416					
International application No.	International filing date (day/n	filing date (day/month/year) Priority date (day/month/year)					
PCT/FR2003/001750	11 juin 2003 (11.06.	2003)	04 juillet 2002 (04.07.2002)				
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B23K 9/02							
Applicant TECHNIP FRANCE							
 This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 							
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.						
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).							
These annexes consist of a total	al ofsheets.						
3. This report contains indications relati	3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:						
I 🔀 Basis of the report	I Basis of the report						
II Priority							
	opinion with regard to novelty,	inventive step	and industrial applicability				
IV Lack of unity of inver							
V Reasoned statement u citations and explanat	V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;						
VI Certain documents cit	ed		İ				
VII Certain defects in the	international application						
VIII Certain observations on the international application							
Date of submission of the demand		ompletion of t	his report				
12 janvier 2004 (12.01.20			oril 2004 (29.04.2004)				
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP		d officer					
Facsimile No.	Telephone	Telephone No.					

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



I. Basis of the report							
1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*							
		the international application as originally filed					
l	冈	the description:					
ĺ		pages	1.10				
		pages	, as originally fried				
		pages	, filed with the letter of				
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l		pages	, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19				
		pages	, filed with the demand				
			, filed with the letter of				
		the drav	ings:				
		pages .	, as originally filed				
		pages .	, filed with the demand				
	_	•	, filed with the letter of				
		the sequer	ce listing part of the description:				
		pages -	, as originally filed				
		pages	, filed with the demand				
		pages _	, filed with the letter of				
		e element the lang the lang	the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is: uage of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). uage of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). uage of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/				
3.	With prelin	ith regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international eliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has					
4.		tł	ndments have resulted in the cancellation of: e description, pages e claims, Nos e drawings, sheets/fig				
5.		This repo	t has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go e disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**				
,	and 70	0.17).	tets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to s "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16). I sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.				
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v.	Reasoned statement under Article 3: citations and explanations supporting		ty, inventive step or industrial applic	cability;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-13	YES
		Claims		NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-13	YES
		Claims		NO NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-13	YES
		Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. The following documents cited in the search report are mentioned in the present report; the numbering given below will be used throughout the rest of the procedure:

D1: FR 2 719 611 (TECHNIP GEOPRODUCTION)
10 November 1995 (1995-10-11);

2. Closest prior art: D1

D1 relates to a method for producing supporting leg rib sections for an offshore platform, wherein the rib includes a main plate (12), which is provided with teeth (14) forming a rack along one longitudinal edge thereof and a semi-cylindrical stiffener (11) welded along the two longitudinal edges of a main surface thereof, and wherein said stiffener (11) and said plate (12) define a channel, said method being characterised in that:

 each longitudinal edge of said stiffener is machined so as to form an outer chamfer (17) on the opposite side to said channel;

- said stiffener (13) is positioned on each main surface (12a, 12b) of said plate (12),
- then heat-welded thereto at said chamfer (17).

Claim 1 differs from D1 in that:

- a lip is machined to allow said stiffener (11) to engage said main plate (12), by forming an outer chamfer along the longitudinal edge on the opposite side to the channel, and
- a weld bead is formed by adding material from outside said channel.

3. Problem

It follows that the problems addressed are those of ensuring a more reliable engagement of the stiffener on the main plate prior to and throughout the welding operation, and enhancing weld strength by adding material during said welding operation.

4. Solution

The solution involves the following technical features mentioned in claim 1:

- a lip is provided along the longitudinal edge for stiffener engagement with said main surface, by forming an outer chamfer along the longitudinal edge on the opposite side to the channel, and
- a weld bead is formed by adding material.
- 5. Claims 2-13 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also fulfil, as such, the PCT requirements of

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novelty and inventive step.	
Dominique Herbreteau	
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